

OPTIMISTIC FEELING GENERAL

Distribution Trade Is Good As
Result of Recent Retail
Activity.

WHOLESALE MORE QUIET.

Still Some Lines Are Notably Active—
Corn and Cotton Crops Show Con-
siderable Improvement—Price
Concessions Possible Now
In Steel and Iron.

New York, Aug. 2.—Broadstreet's to-
morrow will say:

Crops, particularly corn and cotton have shown further improvement, shipments of fall goods are expanding and there is evidently a more optimistic feeling as to distributive trade generally, based upon the active trade done of late at retail. Relatively most activity is noted in the larger southwestern markets at a few central western centers and at the larger eastern cities. In some lines of wholesale trade such as cotton dry goods the activity manifested is still notable, but other lines display more quiet, and in iron and steel while production is of record proportions and orders ahead are heavy, new buying of both crude and finished products is less active than a year ago at this time, with price concessions more readily obtainable. Speculation in securities has a nervous tone, reflecting stiffening money rates and predictions of more stringent conditions later on when fall trade activities expand.

Business failures for the week ending August 1 numbered 142 against 150 in the like week of 1906, 178 in 1905, 179 in 1904 and 264 in 1903.

JUST AS GOOD AS EVER.

Trade compares favorably with that of former years.

New York, Aug. 2.—H. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade to-morrow will say:

Trade reports from the leading cities are uniform in making favorable comparisons with the corresponding week in any previous year. Jobbing houses are preparing for winter trade in a scale seldom equaled; manufacturers still receive orders in abundance, few clothing cancellations appear and it is the exception when plants have smaller contracts than a year ago. Railway earnings in July were 10 per cent. larger than a year ago and foreign commerce at this port for the last week totaled \$2,257,044 as to exports and \$2,044,024 as to imports in comparison with the same week in 1906. Failures this week in the United States were 182 against 190 last year and in Canada 20 against 190 last year.

TRAFFIC IN CAGE-BIRDS.

Nearly 300,000 Imported Every Year—
Trade in American Native Birds
Almost at the End

A conscientious purveyor of intelligence, seeking a novel or entertaining topic upon which to peck or inform fagged readers at the end of a day of midsummer heat, usually goes a-snooping to the department of agriculture. Among Secretary Wilson's twenty-one hundred priorities there is much singular, curious, and variously assorted stuff. They know lots of old things: the life history of Gasteria alba; how to prepare a guinea fowl for market; the constituents of the soil of Braxhill county, Kentucky; the effect of climatic conditions on the composition of durum wheat; and of all the list of things born in the United States, last year, how many were made, and how many were made.

Henry Odier, an assistant in the biological survey, has been making some inquiries about the cage-bird traffic of the United States. He has learned that three hundred thousand, mostly canaries, are annually imported into this country. Some of these go to zoological parks, and a few private parties, but most of them find their way into private homes. Mr. Odier has figured out that this yearly influx allows only four birds a year to every one thousand persons, or about four hundred to a city of the size of Columbus, O. By obtaining a copy of the list of cage birds, you may readily reckon how many cage-birds your own city is entitled to under an equitable distribution.

AMERICAN BIRD TRADE NEARLY
ENDED.

The once extensive trade in native American birds has dwindled to the vanishing point. Formerly, mocking-birds, bluebirds, cardinals, tanagers, indigo birds, and nonpareils were caught in large numbers, and sold either here or abroad, and more or less trade in other species prevailed. Bluebirds, which are known as blue robins or blue nightingales in England and France, were imported into England some time before 1860, as in that year they were first listed in the London Zoological Garden. They are regarded with much favor by amateurs, and have been repeatedly bred in private aviaries.

Mocking-birds were bred in French aviaries before 1870. While intolerant of European birds, they are much valued in America for their song, which, however, is there considered inferior to that of the nightingale. Scarlet tanagers and cardinals are ranked very high in Europe, and frequently win prizes in bird shows. Evidence of the esteem as cage-birds in which the latter are held, is shown by the fact that they are listed on the price list of a London bird dealer, in September, 1896, at more than \$5 a piece.

In consequence of the continual trapping to supply the increasing demand, several of these birds became rare in localities where once they had been common. Nearly every State had a law protecting non-game birds, but such laws were at that time imperfectly framed and ineffectively enforced. The usual exception authorizing the keeping of birds in cages as domestic pets was unaccompanied by any restriction on trade, which, in consequence, flourished. Imperfect as these laws were, they were rendered still less effective by the absence of public interest in their observance and adequate provision for their enforcement. Gradually, however, the influence of the bird-protective movement began to make itself felt, and the laws were improved. One State after another adopted a



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model law, framed by a committee of the American Ornithologists' Union, which, instead of simply prohibiting the killing of a few birds specifically named, as had formerly been done, prohibiting the killing, capture, or possession of all birds other than game birds and a few indigenous species, and interdicted all trade in them. The interest in bird life, awakened by the efforts of this organization and the various State Audubon societies, caused these laws to be more or less vigorously enforced, and the trade in native birds declined proportionately. Supplies were still obtained, however, from States that had not adopted modern laws, and the export trade to Europe continued brisk.

One by one these remaining strongholds were carried by the forces of bird protection, until finally, in 1904, Louisiana, the only State left from which birds were procurable, adopted the model law, and now, beyond a few surreptitious and illegal shipments, the domestic and foreign trade in native American birds has been entirely abolished. Occasionally a small consignment of mocking-birds or cardinals is smuggled to Hamburg or some other European port, but the life of the trade is gone.

BIRDS BROUGHT FROM FOREIGN
LANDS.

From the time when vessels began to make voyages to other countries, sailors have brought back trophies of various sorts, including specimens of the fauna of distant lands. Some birds are still thus brought in the various ports of entry. This method, somewhat systematized, reveals at San Francisco, where the trade temporarily suspended by the earthquake and fire, is now beginning to revive. Supplies are here obtained from the crews of steamers coming from China and Japan, who make a regular business of transporting cage-birds, usually under an arrangement with the steamship companies by which they are employed. Whereby freight is paid out of the proceeds of sales. The birds thus imported are considerable in number, but few in species, being mainly Java sparrows, diamond sparrows, Chinese mocking-birds, and other common kinds.

But most of the birds imported are secured by more highly organized methods. Several of the leading importers maintain forces of men to secure the desired birds, either in their native haunts or in European ports to which they are brought by the agents of other importers. Parrots are generally taken while sailing in the post. During the nesting season the leading American houses send men to Cuba, Mexico, or South America to obtain stock. Headquarters are established by these agents at some point convenient to the parrot country, and natives are employed to secure the young birds, which are forwarded to the United States in periodical shipments. Agents have sometimes been sent from this country to Africa to secure supplies of the favorite African gray parrot, but these are usually obtained in European ports from vessels arriving with supplies for the large European houses.

Small birds, other than canaries, are generally captured by nets. Export netters continually visit remote regions in the interest of wholesale houses of Hamburg, London, Liverpool, and other large cities of Europe. Similar expeditions are dispatched from New York and Philadelphia to Cuba and Mexico, and occasionally to more distant lands—even India; but the principal American houses

maintain connections with establishments in Germany, through which their supplies of old world and South American birds are more commonly procured.

THE BREEDING OF CANARIES.

Canaries are obtained by agents who visit breeders in the Hartz mountains, the Tyrol, and other parts of Europe. A few, however, are imported at San Francisco from breeders in China and Japan. So widely known has the sweet-singing canary become that should an inhabitant of one of the civilized countries of the world visit the Canary Islands and hear the wild birds in their native home the stralus would, in all probability, bring home the traveler memento of his home. The bird is a native of the Canary Islands, the Azores, and Funchal (Madeira), and is said to have been brought from the Canaries to Spain and kept as a cage-bird by the Spanish nobility shortly after the time of the discovery of America. Other accounts make Italy the first country into which it was introduced, and place the time early in the sixteenth century. It is sufficient for present purposes to note that it has been domesticated and prized as a cage-bird for the last four centuries. It is interesting to note that canaries are now exported from England to the Canary Islands.

Singing canaries are bred in the Hartz mountains of Germany. Large numbers are raised by the cottages of this region and are bought directly from them by buyers for the wholesale establishments of Germany and England, and the German branches of American establishments. How much the industry means to the residents near St. Andrewsburg, the Brocken, and other localities in the Hartz mountains may be gathered from the fact that thirty years ago it was estimated that the trade amounted to \$100,000 a year.

PARROTS.

The most popular parrots are the little green Australian parakeets, variously known as shell or grass parakeets, budgerigars, or love birds. These birds, familiar on the street in the city, are a pack of fortune-tellers and performers of tricks, are retailed in this country at \$4 and \$5 a pair. They are among the easiest of all foreign birds to breed, and are raised in large numbers in Europe, from which source come many of the birds brought to the United States. In the year ending June 30, 1906, we imported 5,687 to supply the demand, including a few of a yellow variety produced by the breeders of Belgium and France. Shell parakeets are easily transported from Australia, owing to their ability to exist for long periods without water, and have frequently been carried to Europe in sailing vessels, making a three or four months' voyage without being supplied with water.

Cuban parrots have recently risen in favor, and several thousands were needed to meet the year's demand. These medium-sized green, red, and blue birds, with whitish crowns, make fairly good talkers, and sell at wholesale for \$24 to \$27 a dozen.

MAKING BETTER FARMERS IN
IOWA.

To far— with the head, to realize that no farmer can succeed by mere brute strength, and that longevity is labor without thought—these are the ideas that have become firmly lodged in the heads of the farmers of Iowa. Many thousands of them gratefully acknowledge their debt to Professors Curtis, Holden, Craig, and Kennedy and their associates, for helping them to a better understanding of the difference between success and failure in the farm business.

Iowa, with half of her population of 2,250,000 directly engaged in agriculture, and the rest mostly dependent upon it, has led the world in originating effective methods for carrying the message of the new agriculture directly to the farms and for making good the prediction of the secretary of agriculture, himself an Iowan, that there will be no more serious crop failures. In four notable ways, started in this State, have the most advanced and practical scientific methods of farming and stock-raising secured immediate and general adoption by practical farmers of long and varied experience. These four great movements came in this order:

(1) The "short course" in stock-raising, started at the State Agricultural Experiment Station at Ames in 1889, and now branched into other lines and adopted by other States. (2) The local agricultural experiment stations on the country poor-farms, begun in 1903 and "destined to go around the world." (3) The seed-corn special trains, started in 1904, which in three seasons covered 11,000 miles of railway and brought audiences of farmers, aggregating 150,000, to learn the importance of a better selection of seed-corn, care in testing before planting, and other facts that have increased the average yield of the State one-third in three years. (4) The department of Agricultural Extension in the State Agricultural College, started in 1906, liberally supported by the State, giving practical aid to every seeker for information concerning animal husbandry, farm crops, soils, dairying, horticulture, and domestic sciences.—American Review of Reviews for August.

The elm beetle, which was so destructive in the vicinity of Pontney a few years ago, has reappeared.

NEGLIGENT FATHER PUNISHED

Gets 30 Days' Imprisonment for
Failing to Employ Physician
for Child.

SIX YEAR OLD CHILD DIED

Was Victim of Pneumonia—The Father
Claimed He Did Not Have Faith in
"Medical Doctors" but Relied
on Religious Faith—Case
Will Be Appealed.

New York, Aug. 2.—Clarence W. Byrne, who was recently tried and convicted on charges growing out of his failure to employ medical assistance for his six year old daughter, who died of pneumonia, was sentenced today to 30 days imprisonment by the court of general sessions. Byrne, who is a salesman, was found guilty of violating section 285 of the penal code which provides that "a person who willfully omits, without lawful excuse to perform a duty by law imposed upon him to furnish food, clothing, shelter or medical attendance to a minor, is guilty of a misdemeanor."

The complaint was Coroner P. P. Kitchin.

The decision was given by Justice Kean and the whole court was unanimous for conviction and sentence. Byrne's excuse for not calling a medical practitioner during his daughter's illness was "want of faith in medical doctors" and reliance upon the sufficiency of the religious faith to which he belongs. The court held that the sole question before it was whether the omission to furnish medical attendance under the circumstances constituted a "lawful excuse" and in a lengthy decision it said:

"To answer that question in the affirmative by granting the motion in arrest of judgment would establish a precedent that might be extremely vexatious in other directions. An individual of some other cult, with equal plausibility and earnestness, could plead disbelief in educational methods as an excuse for not sending children to school, could withhold food, clothing and shelter, leaving each, as part of his religion, to be furnished through the same of similar agency."

Counsel for Mr. Byrne announced their intention of appealing the case and taking it to the Supreme Court of the United States if necessary.

TELEGRAPH IN THE SAHARA

Line of Hollow Steel Poles Across the
Great African Desert.

The French have completed plans for constructing a telegraph line across the Sahara. The enterprise in some respects is a novel one.

Some of the details are new and a number of problems had to be solved before the work of building the line could be started. The manufacture of the plant, says the Washington Herald is now in progress. It includes interesting features, especially relating to telegraph poles.

It would not do to string the wire so low that they would interfere with camel caravans in the desert. There must be no fence in that great waste to obstruct travel in any direction. So the hollow telegraph poles that are being made of steel are so long that they may be firmly planted in the earth, and the wire fastened to their tops, will be fifteen feet above the ground.

The only way to carry these poles hundreds of miles out into the desert is by means of camels, and the problem was how the poles might be carried, for bundles eleven feet in length are not adapted to camel transportation. The solution was reached by making the telegraph poles so that each can be reduced to a length of about five feet. When the pole is erected the sections are pulled out and locked and become a staple and lasting support for the wires.

The constructed parts of the line now extends through Algeria to Beni-Abbes at the southeast corner of Morocco's part of the desert. Thus the first 100 miles of the desert part of the line is now in operation. From Beni-Abbes the wire will follow the route surveyed for it two years ago to Adrar, in the very heart of the desert, 800 miles south of the Mediterranean.

At this point the line will turn to the southwest and make for Burem on the Niger, this stretch being about eight hundred and sixty miles long. In the northern part of this section the main difficulties of building the line will be encountered, for it must cross a vast region that is poor in water, and where the habits of the inhabitants have not yet been entirely suppressed. It is believed that the expedients which have been approved for dealing with these impediments will be successful.

As the wire, which is from fifty to 120 miles apart, small military posts will be established, and so thoroughly fortified for defense that ten or twelve men can hold them against all desert enemies, who are really few in number now and are very poorly armed.

The posts will communicate with one another every morning, and if the means of communication fails between any two of them, small parties, with the fleetest of the camels, loaded with repair material will travel along the line till the place of the trouble is located. Another advantage of the collapsible poles is that the wire may be brought near to the ground where any examination or repairs are required.

The cost of the desert part of the line will be about \$100,000. A branch line will connect the Niger River in the Soudan with Lake Chad, and the main line will extend up the Niger to Timbuctoo, where it will connect with the line now in operation to Bamako and the Atlantic coast of Senegambia.

BURR.

Although the hammock lately swung through chilly eyes of our near-swept. And bran new furniture, dismayed. Upon the porch did not a thing.

A blander mood has come. To open wide the big front door. And set in tune the Junco's hum. Until we take a chance once more. Of course you know, one cannot tell. From day to day what our punk clim. At will turn out for us, but—well. The porch now works much overtime. Indianapolis News

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Are There More Babies or Are We Selling All the Go-Carts This Year?

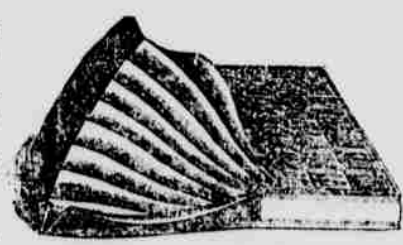
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